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STAFF CONFERENCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's
Conference Room, Administration Building
Monday, 8 November 1954, at 1100 Hours

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Mr. Dulles Presiding

[Redacted content]

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS' MEETING

AGENDA

Director's Conference Room, First Floor
Administration Building
on Monday, 8 November 1954, at 1100 Hours

Clark Task Force

Mr. Dulles

Political Appointments in CIA

Mr. Kirkpatrick

Chain Letters

Col. White

[redacted]
8 November 1954

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1. Clark Task Force

Mr. Dulles reported on the Clark Task Force, which has begun its survey.

2. Job Selection

Mr. Kirkpatrick said that recent newspaper publicity had incorrectly indicated CIA hiring would have to be cleared through the Republican National Committee, the same as "Schedule C" jobs. Mr. Kirkpatrick emphasized that this is not true. Mr. Dulles said there has never been political pressure on the Agency for whom we employ, and that our employment is handled irrespective of politics. General Cabell added that CIA had not received the letter from the Republican National Committee which was the basis of the newspaper stories.

3. Publication of Separation Data.

Mr. Dulles announced that he had taken exception to the publication of CIA separations by the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Amory suggested that if it should be decided that such publication must be made, CIA might be grouped with such Executive Department offices as the NSC and ODM.

4. Chain Letters.

Colonel White pointed out a new chain letter rash which was operating in the Pentagon and might "hit" CIA. He said there were security implications to the listing of names, and that eventual publicity on the affair would be bad. The Attorney General is investigating the possible illegality of the system. Mr. Dulles asked that those present take action to stop the letters in CIA.

5. Trip to Far East

Mr. Wisner reported briefly on his trip, stating that specific tasks he had been given were accomplished and asked that anyone who had given him a task to perform on the trip, and to whom he had not yet reported, get in touch with him. He reported a need for a qualified person on the Career Service Plan to make a trip through the Far East, similar to the present trip by [redacted] to Europe. The Director approved and Mr. Reynolds said [redacted] or an equally qualified man would make the trip.

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6. Present Status of Career Service

Mr. Reynolds stated that of the [] applications for the Career Staff which had been sent out, [] had been returned for action. Of these, [] have been approved, [] disapproved, and [] individuals declined. Mr. Reynolds said the Career Boards need to take action to insure a smooth flow of the applications.

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7. Community Chest Drive.

Mr. Reynolds reported the Community Chest drive had netted \$44,000 as compared to the \$42,000 at the same time last year. The drive has two more weeks to go. Mr. Dulles expressed his gratitude at this response, and asked AD/P to get out a letter of thanks to CIA personnel.

8. Visit to []

Mr. Dulles reported on his trip to [] stating he was very favorably impressed. He said the appropriate people should make the tour, asking that they clear with Colonel Baird so as not to create a hardship on the installation.

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9. The 1956 Budget

Mr. Saunders reported on the 1956 Budget, stating that the hearings and study seemed to be progressing very well. He said the Bureau of the Budget was asking a great deal more questions this year than usual. Mr. Dulles asked that he be furnished a list of the questions. Colonel White requested that he be advised of each contact with the Bureau. General Cabell pointed out that we must refrain from commenting on the intelligence activities of other agencies.

10. Relations with the Press

Mr. Dulles pointed out that, because of the nature of our work, our relations with the press continued to be difficult. He said social contacts with the press cannot be avoided, but that [] should be kept advised of all matters in the press field. Inquiries should be referred to []

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